Central assistance to drought hit States

564. DR. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level task force on drought has considered demands of drought hit States for additional Central assistance;

(b) whether Centre has convened a meeting to prepare contingency plans to deal with any drought like situation in the current fiscal year;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh Government and other drought hit States have fully utilised the amount, so far, provided to them to meet drought;

(d) whether the Supreme Court directed Centre to double States quota of foodgrains and allocation of funds under PM's Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the schemes that have been worked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) The Task Force on Drought Management, in its meeting held on 30.6.2003, approved further allocation of foodgrains for relief employment to some of the drought affected States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The drought affected States are yet to report to this Department full utilisation of the funds released to them.

(d) and (e) State Governments are party to the case in which the Hon'ble Supreme Court have passed the relevant orders. It is for the State Governments concerned to implement the said order. On its part, the Central Government has drawn attention of the drought affected States to the said directions of the Hon'ble Court. So far, no State Government has sought any assistance for the purpose.

Implementing Agriculture Policy

565. DR. M.N. DAS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called greater efforts in implementing Indian Agriculture Policy;